



NEWS RELEASE

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

City of North Little Rock's Fire Hydrant Testing/Inspection Schedule

During the month of October 2006, the North Little Rock Fire Department, in coordination with Central Arkansas Water, will conduct flow-and-drain tests on public fire hydrants within the city limits of North Little Rock. Because the inspections involve the increased flow of water from fire hydrants, customers may occasionally notice discolored water during the process.

The flow-and-drain inspections will begin Monday, October 2, and continue each week through Saturday, October 28. Each week, Fire Department crews will conduct tests during daylight hours in a different geographical quadrant of the City. The testing is a part of routine maintenance. Customers received advance notification of the testing through a September 2006 billing statement insert from Utility Billing Services.

The purpose of the inspections is two-fold: To check fire hydrants for proper operation, leaks, and other possible maintenance concerns and to comply with the requirements of the City's Class 2 fire insurance rating.

The City of North Little Rock's firefighting system has approximately 2,000 public and private fire hydrants that the Fire Department and Central Arkansas Water maintain. The department conducts the flow-and-drain tests to ensure the equipment is operating properly and can be used in the event of a fire or other emergency that requires water. A quality firefighting system means better protection of people, property, and public health and, in some cases, lower home insurance premiums. The testing is done during daylight hours and completed within one month's time, so as to pose as little inconvenience as possible to citizens.

The increased flow of water from the hydrants occasionally causes the scouring of manganese that has built up on the lining of water mains. The scouring can result in discolored water at the customer's tap. The discolored water is bacteriologically safe but can stain clothing so customers are advised **NOT TO WASH** clothing in the discolored water. Furthermore,

customers are advised to check for discolored water in their washing machines before washing clothes during the designated flushing period for their geographical area.

If a customer has discolored water for an extended period of time, the customer should call Central Arkansas Water at 377.1239.

The following is the October 2006 fire hydrant testing schedule for the City of North Little Rock:

AREA 1

October 2 - 7 Area bounded by Interstate 40 on the north; the city limits on the east and south; and Interstate 30 on the west.

AREA 2

October 9 - 14 Area bounded by the city limits on the north and east; Arkansas 107 on the west; and I-40 on the south.

AREA 3

October 16 - 21 Area bounded by I-40 on the north; I-30 on the east; and the city limits on the south and west.

AREA 4

October 23 - 28 Area bounded by the city limits on the north and west; Arkansas 107 on the east; and I-40 on the south.

The Fire Department and water utility cannot provide the exact day of the week that firefighters will be testing in a specific neighborhood; however, the North Little Rock Fire Department tests only during the daytime and will test in each geographical quadrant during the week designated.

Customers with questions about the actual testing and inspection schedule for the fire hydrants should call Central Arkansas Water at 377.1224 or the Fire Department at 812.5940. Customers who experience discolored water at the tap for an extended period of time during the testing should call 377.1239.

Protecting People, Property, and Public Health

North Little Rock Fire Department

Central Arkansas Water

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